

Lessons from Geese

In 2018, we might take lessons from geese as we consider how to build a stronger church. Many geese overwinter in the Midsouth, and you might have seen them circling a pond as they regroup for the night. The next time you see geese flying overhead, flying along in V formation, you might be interested in knowing what science has discovered about why they fly that way. It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. (Christians who share a common direction and a sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.)

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. (If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are going.) When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. (It pays to take turns doing hard jobs—with people at church or with geese flying south.) The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. (What do we say when we honk from behind?)

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by a shot and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly, or until he is dead, and they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their original group. (If people knew we would stand by them like that in church, they would push down these walls to get in.) Awareness of those around us and a few lessons from nature might help us help each other in our daily walk (or flight). That seems little enough price to pay to win the lost and minister to one another. Even geese have sense enough to know it works every time.

Taken from the “Estes Echo,” www.esteschurch.org

Leachville church of Christ
609 S. Main St.
Leachville, AR 72438

